REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire August 5, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 1 and 9 are amended are amended, correcting a typographical error, such that the term "produce" is replaced with "producing." Claims 1-16 are now pending.

IN THE DRAWINGS

In the present Office Action, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 36 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "58" has been used to designate both receiver/transmitter and card slot.

Attached is a revised "Figure 2" showing the card slot as element number "68." The second paragraph of page 9 is correspondingly amended to correct the original typographical error in which the reference character "58" was used twice.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Wilkins, et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0231240 – "*Wilkins*").

Wilkins teaches a method and system for sending a proxy image, which is contained in a digital image file that is smaller than the digital image file for the original image. That is, *Wilkins* teaches that there are two files: a large file containing an original digital photograph at maximum resolution, and a small file containing a low resolution copy of the original digital photograph. Thus, the "low-resolution image object can be distributed that will facilitate very fast download and display since it may be of a much smaller size compared to the original high-resolution image." (*Wilkins* paragraph [0030], last four lines.)

There are a variety of ways in which the low-resolution image can be digitally manipulated. These methods are defined in an "edit list." "The 'edit list' can be considered both the 'glue' that identifies all digital negatives and other multimedia assets that are needed to reconstruct the **resultant image** and the 'script' on how the digital negative and other

multimedia assets are rendered such that the **resultant image** can be recreated, at the current resolution of the resultant image or at a different resolution." (*Wilkins* paragraph **[0039].**) The "resultant image" is the low-resolution altered image, NOT the high-resolution original image.

If a user wishes to access (buy) the high-resolution original image, then the user is referred "back to the original high-resolution digital negative(s) that can reside either on a Web site, CD media, or other removable media." (*Wilkins* paragraph **[0044]**, lines 3-8.) The location of the digital negative is typically at a website, such as www.pictureiq.com/samles/nicholas.jpg described in the sample XML pseudocode shown in the left column of page 3 of the *Wilkins* application. The low-resolution "resultant image" also includes the website at which the original can be located, as described as "a reference (i.e. internal or external link) to the digital negative along with the optional edit list. (*Wilkins* paragraph **[0031]**, last three lines.)

Again, *Wilkins* teaches the use of a second, smaller file that requires less bandwidth across a network.

THE CITED PRIOR ART DOES NOT TEACH OR SUGGEST ALL OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE PRESENTLY CLAIMED INVENTION

With reference to exemplary Claim 1, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest:

"generating an altered image by altering original image data to product altered image data;"

"storing encrypted instructions in said file with said altered image data, said instructions describing a method for reversing an alteration method utilized to alter said original image to produced said altered image data;" and

"permitting only authorized users to utilize said encrypted instructions **to reproduce said original image from said altered image data.**"

That is, *Wilkins* does not teach or suggest being able to reconstruct the original image from the altered image. Such a process is not possible using *Wilkins'* low-resolution image since the data from the original high-resolution negative has been lost. Rather, *Wilkins* sends a customer desiring the original photograph to another file located at a website, etc.

As stated above, the instructions in the "edit list" in *Wilkins* are unable to recreate the original digital negative. While paragraph **[0065]** of *Wilkins* does state that the edit list "provides a way for the user to 'undo' certain operations or 'disabled' [sic] or otherwise turn off certain operations that have been applied to the photo," this is only to allow for the operations listed in the edit list "to be reapplied to the digital negative, if desired." That is, functions described in the edit list can be applied to the original digital negative to result in the smaller low-resolution photo, but there is no teaching or suggestion of a method for reversing the process, which can't be done anyway due to the lack of information found in the smaller low-resolution photo file.

As the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the present invention as claimed, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants now respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,

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